

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 42, Issue 8, August 2005



Last unit deployers get send off from friends, family

From left, the faces of youngsters Sam and Greg Rickels, Byron Solomon and Wesley King register a range of emotions as they witness their dads' departure on a deployment from the comfortable confines of an E-Z Go cart. Sam and Greg's dad is C-130 loadmaster Master Sgt. James Rickels. Byron's dad is C-130 flight engineer Senior Master Sgt. Brent Solomon and Wesley's dad is MXS's Tech. Sgt. Joe King. Chances are the youngsters won't have to go through this routine for awhile as the 908th's two-year mobilization heads into the home stretch. All aircrews, maintenance and aerial port personnel are expected to be back by the end of November.



Photo by Maj. Jerry Lobb

Components united behind Future Total Force plan

active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, National Guard Bureau leaders endorse plan, present unified front

WASHINGTON -- Leaders from the active-duty Air Force, Air Reserve Command and National Guard Bureau spoke recently about the direction of the Air Force's Future Total Force.

The future of the Air Force will be determined not only by the Future Total Force plan, but also the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review, ongoing capabilities studies and annual budget deliberations, said the Air Force director of plans and programs.

"We must keep in mind that there will always be moving parts," said Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Wood. "The Future Total Force planning process is a dynamic one."

General Wood said the FTF plan comprises two parts: a well-analyzed, cost-constrained force structure

and innovative organizational structures that synergize the strengths of active-duty and citizen Airmen.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command; Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau; and Brig. Gen. Allison Hickey, director of the FTF directorate, accompanied General Wood to highlight the unity among the three components in forging ahead on the future plans of the Air Force.

"We have been working with our Air National Guard and active-duty partners on this Future Total Force (plan) from day one," General Bradley said. "It's going to make us a much more operationally effective Air Force in the future."

"The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve will

not be excluded from any mission set for any of the weapons systems for the Future Total Force," General Blum said. "There are great opportunities ... that exist for (the Guard and Reserve) to deliver the capabilities that this nation needs."

These capabilities include Homeland Defense, which, according to General Blum, "must be capability number one for the Air National Guard." He also said that retaining expeditionary combat support capabilities are "hugely essential" and will provide support in their federal role, as well as give the governors the capabilities they need during state emergencies. These capabilities include medical, civil engineering, communications and security.

The six FTF initiatives originally proposed in December 2004 continue to

move ahead, while all components work closely together to expand and plan for future emerging missions.

"We will continue to work with all stakeholders in this process to work through emerging mission priorities while assessing the resulting budget, manpower and training impacts," General Hickey said.

As BRAC and QDR move forward, the Air Force will be responsive to changes and address new strategy and capability requirements, General Wood said.

"BRAC does not dictate the number of airplanes, it deals strictly with basing," General Bradley said about the effect of potential changes to BRAC recommendations. "If the direction coming out of BRAC changes, we will work together to make the necessary adjustments."

"It is important to remember ... there will never be a 'final' Future Total Force plan," General Wood said. "Like the evolutionary nature of our air (and space) expeditionary force, we must retain the ability to adapt our plan."

General Blum and General Bradley agreed, stating the FTF plan would be the Air Force priority regardless of ongoing studies or external events. The plan reinvests savings from divestiture of older weapon systems to allow future capabilities.

"We need to be postured for the future instead of stuck in the past," General Blum said. "We will continue to work together -- active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve -- to reach our goals without ever compromising the capabilities we bring to the fight."

End is near, stay focused, return everyone safely

I want to take a moment to relay the experiences of a trip that I took recently. I had the opportunity to fly an airplane over to the region



Col. Heath J. Nuckolls
908th Airlift Wing commander

where most of our folks are deployed and visit with some of our aircrews and maintenance personnel.

They are doing an exceptional job under some very difficult conditions. At the time I was there, the temperature was running about 110 to 115 degrees with a hot wind blowing about 30 mph. I am sure it is hotter now. The maintenance people are working 12-hour shifts and the aircrews are working anywhere between 12 and 16 hours, depending on the trip. Some people even work on their days off to help where needed.

They work along side members from other Reserve units as well as

personnel from active duty and the National Guard in order to make this Expeditionary Wing function smoothly. These members have been doing this for approximately 20 months now at various locations throughout the region.

Two things remained constant during my short visit: the positive attitude everyone displayed and their desire to achieve the mission.

Along those same lines, I recently met Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin Harper, the new 42ABW Command Chief. He was stationed in the region as a command chief at the same location as our aerial port members.

Chief Harper had nothing but high praise for them and the job they did.

"They did an exceptional job and you should be proud of what they did there," he said.

I want to say that I am proud of everyone in the unit and what we have accomplished. The end of this mobilization is in sight. All of our aircrews and maintenance personnel should be back no later than mid-September and our aerial port members will be back no later than the end of November.

During these remaining months, let us stay focused on our goal to do the mission and return everyone safely.



Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

The Loving Hand of God

Today many American military members are separated from their loved ones around the globe. Since September 11, 2001, the ranks of military members serving in active duty status have increased considerably.



By Chaplain (Capt.) Val Shumate
908th AW Chaplain's Office

are still stationed in remote areas. Our military still seeks to destroy terrorist networks around the world. Families continue to cope with ways to manage day-to-day affairs while a loved one toils in a distant land. Life appears even more frustrating when their loved one is unable to participate in the decision making process.

Psalm 139: Verses 9-10
King James Version gives us hope.

"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me and thy right hand shall hold me."

The Psalm writer sheds new meaning for us regarding God's presence. The Word of God, he says, "Dwells in the uttermost parts of the world."

Remember, wherever our loved one is, God is there with her or him.

Furthermore, the Psalm writer says, God's hand leads, guides and sustains everyone. Therefore, I say do not worry, fret, or be discouraged; God will make a way and cover our loved one overseas and at home. Trust and believe in Him as well as pray.

Fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters are thousands of miles from their homes and bases: Computer e-mail, long distance telephone calls, mail service, and even air travel help to bridge the gap. However, when a husband or a wife has a serious need or a critical problem, the distance that separates them may create extra tension.

More than three years have passed since the U.S. endured that horrific attack and many men and women



Reserve Command leader visits wing

908th Maintenance Group Commander Col. Kerry Kohler points out some of the features of the new fuel cell to Maj. Gen. David Tanzi, Air Force Reserve Command's vice commander. General Tanzi visited the unit on June 21. While here he met with members of the 357th Airlift Squadron, the 908th Maintenance Squadron and toured wing facilities.

DOD increases reserve components access to TRICARE

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Defense Department officials have made "tremendous efforts and strides" to meet the needs of reservists and guardsmen who now qualify for healthcare coverage under the TRICARE program, the program manager said June 8.

The recent introduction of new patients into the TRICARE system presents "a challenge," but DOD is being "very attentive" to the needs of new TRICARE participants, said Dr. David Tornberg, acting deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity and deputy assistant secretary of defense for clinical and program policy.

Thousands of reservists and guardsmen and their families became eligible to purchase healthcare insurance through TRICARE in late April.

Congress authorized the new ben-

efit, called TRICARE Reserve Select, for reserve component service members under the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. The plan is designed to serve as a bridge for reserve-component troops leaving active duty who are not covered by civilian employer or other health insurance plans, defense officials said.

TRICARE Reserve Select is available to all reserve component troops who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, served supporting a contingency operation and agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve.

To help ensure that licensed physicians across the nation accept these and other TRICARE patients, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, sent letters to national and state medical associations last August, seeking their support. The letter urged the associations to contact their members and en-

courage them to become TRICARE providers and to treat "America's heroes -- the people making sacrifices to keep our country safe and strong."

In addition, the TRICARE Management Activity is surveying 20 U.S. metropolitan areas to determine what TRICARE resources are available and whether they are sufficient to meet the current need, said Maj. Michael Shavers, a Pentagon spokesman.

The survey results will help DOD officials identify areas where beneficiaries may run into difficulties getting access to TRICARE services and to help resolve those problems, Major Shavers said.

A similar survey was conducted last year, as required by the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act legislation.

As DOD officials work to increase the number of TRICARE providers and improve access to the network, Dr.

Tornberg said 80 percent of guardsmen and reservists called to active duty already are covered by another form of health insurance.

After 30 days on active duty, they qualify for full benefits under the TRICARE system -- a system Dr. Tornberg said "has one of the most generous and robust benefits available in the health insurance market."

Legislation introduced in the Senate would further expand healthcare benefits for guardsmen and reservists by allowing them to enroll in the program for a monthly premium, regardless of their duty status. Defense Department officials are studying the legislation, Dr. Tornberg said.

More information about TRICARE, including a description of services available by location, is available on the TRICARE Web site (<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>).

Here's a recap of healthcare benefits for Reservists

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005, enacted into law on October 28, 2004, made permanent some provisions from last year's legislation to improve the readiness of America's fighting force.

Here's a quick run down on health benefits.

■ **TRICARE Reserve Select** – a premium-based health plan for eligible RC members. TRS coverage is available to eligible RC members who were called or ordered to active duty, under Title 10, in support of a contingency operation on or after September 11, 2001. RC Members and their Reserve Component unit will need to agree for the member to stay in the Select Reserve for one or more whole years to qualify.

TRS coverage must be purchased. TRS members pay a monthly premium for health care coverage (for self-only or for self and family). Adjusted effective Jan 1st each year, the premiums for calendar year 2005 are:

\$75 for TRS member-only coverage; \$233 for TRS member and family coverage

The Reserve Components include the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, and the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. For more information about the Reserve Component and the Selected Reserve, visit www.defenselink.mil

■ **Early TRICARE benefits** – eligible RC members are entitled to up to 90 days of TRICARE benefits prior to mobilization

■ **Transitional Health Care Benefits** under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) – eligible RC members are entitled to 180 days of coverage immediately following separation from active duty. The four categories for TAMP are:

Members involuntarily separated from active duty and their eligible family members;

National Guard and Reserve members, collectively known as the Reserve

Component (RC), separated from active duty after being called up or ordered in support of a contingency operation for an active duty period of more than 30 days and their family members;

Members separated from active duty after being involuntarily retained in support of a contingency operation and their family members; and

Members separated from active duty following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty for less than one year in support of a contingency mission and their family members.

■ **The Reserve Family Demonstration Project** has been extended until Oct 31, 2005. The demonstration project tests approaches for the Military Health System to ensure timely access to health care during a national crisis for family members of activated reservists and members of the National Guard, and to maintain clinically appropriate continuity of health care for their family members. Demonstration participants are limited to families of Reserve and National Guard members called to active duty for periods of more than 30 days in support of operations that result from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, under Executive Order 13223, 10 U.S.C. 12302, 10 U.S.C. 12301(d), or 32 U.S.C. 502(f). Such operations include, for example, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE.

■ **Reserve Component Members.** When on military duty, RC members are covered for any injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, including traveling to and from military duty, under line-of-duty procedures. Medical coverage (direct care at the MTF) is available when the member is activated. When ordered to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, RC members have comprehensive health care coverage under TRICARE.

- TRICARE Prime
- TRICARE Prime Remote
- TRICARE Dental Program

When ordered to active duty for

more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, RC members are also eligible for "early" and transitional (demob) benefits:

- Early TRICARE benefits
- Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP)

■ **Reserve Component Family Members.** When the RC sponsor is on orders for more than 30 consecutive days, his/her family's medical and dental care needs are covered under several TRICARE options:

- TRICARE Standard
- TRICARE Extra
- TRICARE Prime
- TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members
- TRICARE Dental Program

Additional Resources

Here are some additional resources to assist you:

■ **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)** to confirm your eligibility

■ **Service contacts** can answer many questions and can help resolve problems, such as correcting mistakes in DEERS.

■ **TRICARE Service Center** or your regional contractor for more information about benefits, eligibility, or enrollment in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote.

■ **The TRICARE Web site** gives access to RC benefits and links to other, more general information sites

- News Releases
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Marketing materials on the SMART site, such as the single-page flyer, TRICARE Benefits for the Reserve Component, and the handbook on TRICARE Prime Remote.

For RC questions not listed in the FAQ database, e-mail reservebcac@tma.osd.mil.

Remember: TRICARE policies and benefits are governed by public law; thus changes to the health care plan are continuous and benefits are added regularly.

TRICARE web site features benefits-related Links

There are many places for Reserve Component members and family members to get the information they need about health care coverage, perhaps none more valuable than the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil.

Frequently Asked Questions, for example, shows Q-and-A's from more than a thousand beneficiary inquiries, with a search feature that allows you to type in "Reserve Component" and other qualifying words. TRICARE's Fact Sheets provide basic, detailed explanations of parts of the health care benefit. And one resource often leads you to another. So check out the TRICARE web site and click on the hyperlinks to receive more detailed info.

Here are some of the highlighted areas.

Reserve Component health care benefits brochure, "Choices for the Reserve Component." In simple, easy terms, the RC health care brochure provides a broad overview of TRICARE Options: Dental Coverage, Employer-sponsored Health Insurance Options, Important Resources, TRICARE Regions and a key Deployment Checklist--to ensure the essentials are covered before activation and at any time.

Guide to Reserve Family Member Benefits. This book provides information about military benefits (to include legal assistance, pay, travel, etc.) available to RC family members.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQs are a great starting point for finding out about how medical and dental benefits work for specific RC members and their families. Begin with "Reserve Component" and "health care." The "TAMP" benefit has its own large FAQs listing under "Section 704."

TRICARE Handbook The TRICARE Handbook provides TRICARE benefit information. Users can search for information on the TRICARE benefit either by subject search or general search.

Summary of VA Benefits This site provides the contents of a brochure that covers such topics as home-loan guarantees, disability benefits, life insurance, vocational rehabilitation, and memorial and burial benefits. There is also a lot of contact information, including toll-free telephone numbers and specialized Web sites



Courtesy photo

While deployed last year, Master Sgt. David Henry, lying prone in a damaged building, fires a 50-caliber sniper rifle.

Relative rookie rises to majors rapidly

former crew chief switches to First Shirt field, proves to be quick study, earns command honors

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

The new kid in town has already risen to the top of the heap. 908th AMXS's Master Sgt. David Henry, who became a First Sergeant in December 2003, was named AFRC's First Sergeant of the Year in April.

After reporting for Air Force basic training in August 1989, Sergeant Henry completed aircraft maintenance training and reported to the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron at Charleston AFB, S.C.

In 1998 he separated from active duty to pursue a career in the airline industry and joined the Air Force Reserve. While assigned to the 908th AMXS, he deployed for Operations Shining Hope, Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His most recent deployment took him to Kirkuk AB, Iraq. He has associate degrees in human resources management and applied aerospace technology from the Community College of the Air Force and attends the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Ga.

Airmen from other Air Force major commands and agencies are competing for the Air Force's airmen and first sergeant of the year.

The Air Force Association

will honor the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year during its annual convention in Washington, D.C., in September. The Air Force First Sergeant of the Year will receive recognition in August during the Air Force Sergeants Association's annual convention in Dallas.

Being selected as AFRC's First Sergeant of the Year, Sergeant Henry said made him feel proud and "it topped off the accumulation of a good year."

He deployed from April to August 2004 to Kirkuk, Iraq, as first sergeant of the 506th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron. The 506th ESFS is the largest active-duty squadron in the AOR and the members represent 26 Air Force bases.

"Failure was not an option for me, I had to succeed. You have never been so alone as when you're rolling down Dannelly Field (Montgomery Airport) knowing everyone is depending on you," said Sergeant Henry who was a C-130 crew chief on active duty for 10 years at Charleston and Robins AFBs.

"This is not just my award; the 908th won it," he said.

The 'rookie' First Shirt attributed his success to having had effective mentors and indicated that he had always received the support of senior leadership.

"There is no way you can rise to any level of success without a wonderful support group," Sergeant Henry commented. "Everyone has what he or she needs to be successful; you just have to seize the opportunity."

He also noted the support of his wife, Kristy.

"I can't say enough good things about her," he exclaimed. "Kristy took care of our household and raised our daughter, Victoria, 12 and son, Justin, 7, by herself while I was deployed."

Henry said he helps airmen with their career decisions but commented that if the airman doesn't know where he or she is going, how he, as First Sergeant, could help them reach their destination.

"If you don't know where you're going, how can I help you get there?"

The award has opened up a lot more opportunities because more people know who he is. This is good, he said, because increased recognition helps him assist the people he is responsible for.

He said that the reason people tend to not succeed is failure to act.

"You have to make some kind of motion."

He speaks openly about loyalty, responsibility and "giving back."



Courtesy photo

Sergeant Henry at the AFRC awards banquet.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

'The Shirt' reflects on an eventful 18 months.

"Each reservist in this wing has a responsibility not only to our wing and the Air Force Reserve, but to the Air Force as a whole. If the Air Force needs us to accomplish a mission, loyalty should not stop at this wing."

The former crew chief said the Air Force has been good

to him, helping him raise his family and pay for many things such as his home.

"Being First Sergeant is about giving back," Henry said matter-of-factly. (This article includes excerpts from an AFRC News Release).

Maxwell/Gunter civilian pharmacy tech earns AF-level award

Unit Reservist excels at her day job

By Carl Bergquist
Maxwell AFB Dispatch staff
writer

EDITOR'S NOTE: 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron's NCOIC of Pharmacy Services, Master Sgt. Theresa Murrell, was recently named the Air Force's top civilian pharmacy technician.

"Master Sgt. Murrell has always been our (ASTIS) shining star. Meeting the standard has never been something she has strived for, but exceeding the standard has been her forte. She takes the lead where others shy away... setting the example for all to follow. You want her on your team because you know the job won't just get done, but the task will be completed beyond your expectations. I am VERY proud of her," said Capt. Yolanda Woodsmall, 908th ASTIS Health Services Administrator, commenting on her subordinate's recent recognition.

Theresa Murrell, pharmacy technician for 42nd Medical Support Squadron, proudly took the 2004 U.S. Air Force Pharmacy Technician of the Year award at the civilian level.

Ms. Murrell competed against civilian technicians from Air Force bases all over the world to win the honor and will pick up her award in October at the Air Force's annual pharmacy conference to be held this year in San Diego, Calif.

"She is a leader among civilian techs and young airmen here at the pharmacy," said Master Sgt.

Ernest Hogan, NCO in charge of Pharmacy Services. "She handles a lot of training for our airmen who have to man the 'front line' (service windows) at the base's pharmacy."

He said Ms. Murrell's contributions to the team and outstanding performance, and her willingness to take on the additional tasks, were primary reasons she was nominated for the award and he and the entire pharmacy staff are delighted she won.

"She doesn't just fill prescriptions here at the pharmacy," said Sergeant Hogan. "She also handles coordination of Red Cross volunteers, does Diabetes classes and manages the 'High Dollar' program that, in conjunction with Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, provides more than \$1,000,000 in medication to patients every year."

Ms. Murrell said she has been a pharmacy technician for more than 20 years and enjoys the job. The first 13 years she was active duty Air Force then separated from the service to become a Government Service employee. First coming to Maxwell/Gunter in 1990, she left the Air Force in 1998 and has spent her working time since then as a civilian member of the Maxwell/Gunter Pharmacy staff. As a master sergeant in the Air Force Reserve, she is able to maintain her military ties.

"I'm very proud to have won the award and really appreciate those who nominated me for it," said Ms. Murrell. "It is really nice to know the people you work with appreciate your efforts and stand behind you."

Right, Sergeant Murrell and a coworker set up a pharmacy during an ASTS field exercise.



Ms. Murrell checks a prescription at the Maxwell AFB pharmacy

Photo by Carl Bergquist



Photo by Jeff Melvin

AFRC launches anti-drug initiative; True Blue campaign aims to reduce demand

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Supply and demand are part of life in America. Unfortunately, that life includes a large supply of abused legal and illegal drugs.

In an effort to reduce the demand for these drugs, Air Force Reserve Command began its "True Blue" campaign commandwide in April.

"In the past, anti-drug or anti-substance abuse efforts were all negative and centered on disciplinary action," said Dr. Don Jenrette, the command's drug demand reduction program manager. "Our new True Blue initiative promotes healthy living, career-mind sets and career role models."

Trial runs of the new initiative exceeded planners' goals during May - November 2004 at the 440th Airlift Wing, located at General Mitchell International Air-

port Air Reserve Station, Milwaukee, Wis.

"We focused the trial test around four themes," said Ms. Bobbie Sellers, AFRC's drug demand reduction specialist. "We worked to raise awareness of what reservists should value over substance abuse and what they can do to protect their health, career and family and fulfill their leadership role with others."

Since 1998, the primary emphasis of AFRC's Drug Demand Reduction Program was detection through random military and civilian drug testing.

The new True Blue initiative showcases positive and healthy life choices. It introduces reservists and other command members to a new logo, themes and messages that are communicated by a dedicated Web site, with

downloadable in-house developed posters, video streams, tri-fold pamphlets and other educational venues encouraging people to be free of substance abuse and where to go for help.

"Our goal, while a lofty one, is to have a workplace free of substance abuse," said Dr. Jenrette. "In the profession of arms, our people often put their lives in the hands of their co-workers. We cannot afford to have people on the team who are not at the top of their game or incapacitated by substance abuse – after all, we are talking about a matter of life and death."

The mission of the AFRC Drug Demand Reduction Program is to enhance readiness by eliminating substance abuse through prevention, education, community outreach and drug testing.

"In the past, we have used handouts such as pencils, writing pads, calculators and water bottles to get the substance abuse-free message out there," said Dr. Jenrette. "We'll continue to provide the promotional items, but our targeted four theme approach is something brand new that our reservists really responded to in a positive way in Milwaukee. On a larger scale we're looking forward to reaping similar benefits by launching this initiative commandwide."

The 440th Airlift Wing has 1,300 reservists, with more than 300 serving overseas to support the Global War on Terrorism. The True Blue brand is designed to symbolize reservists who are "twice the citizen": working and volunteering in their local communities and serving their country.

The program's vision is for Air Force True Blue reservists to set the standard and lead the way to a substance abuse-free community. Reservists can learn more about the program by going to the True Blue link on the restricted AFRC Web site. While visiting the site, planners encourage visitors to take a moment to complete a survey.

"We strongly encourage feedback," said Dr. Jenrette. "That's how we can make the site the best it can be and the go-to place for anti-substance abuse related education and information."

For information about the 908AW Drug Demand Reduction Program contact Maj. Charles Stresino, 908ASTS Health Services Administrator at (334) 953-5404. (AFRC News Service)

Future Total Force outlined on Capitol Hill

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- There will be no "gap" between the end of assigned missions for Air National Guard units and the beginning of their replacement missions.

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on July 20, the director of Air Force plans and programs told legislators the service is working hard to find replacement missions for Air National Guard units that may lose their flying mission as a result of the current Base Realignment and Closure recommendations.

"We have a tough job ahead of us, establishing new missions for these areas," said Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Wood. "(But) we are committed not to gap between areas. If we have a unit that is going to lose its aircraft and transition to a new mission, we want to bring those aircraft down at the same rate we train for the new mission."

Some legislators said they feared that without the draw of an aircraft for local communities to rally around and for potential Airmen to be interested in, it would be difficult to retain existing guardsmen and to recruit new ones. But General Wood said the Air Force is more than just airplanes, and said he hoped



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

AFRC Commander Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley testifies during a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee July 20.

existing Guardsmen would be willing to participate in new, critical missions.

In recommendations to BRAC commissioners, Air Force officials have asked to close some Guard and active-duty bases. Other selected bases are recommended for realignment -- existing missions may be lost altogether or moved to other bases. In some locations, new missions would be brought in to replace missions lost. The Air Force plan to realign missions and organizations is outlined in the service's Future Total Force concept. The concept's aim is to strengthen the Air Force by creating synergies between active duty and reserve component units.

The general said the Future Total Force plan in-

cludes two key aspects. First is a change to the force structure. This involves a plan to divest the service of older aircraft and replace them with newer aircraft. One such newer aircraft is the F/A-22 Raptor.

The second part of the FTF plan involves changing the organizational structure of the total Air Force. The "total force" includes active duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. These changes will involve the pairing of active duty units with reserve component units to help maximize the benefits that each brings to the fight.

While General Wood said the total force has already been working together for most of the Air Force's history, he expects FTF to yield even greater results. "Under our plan we will take this integration to the next level by expanding both the scope and the number of associate units using the lessons learned over the past 40 years," he said. "We will see the experience of our young active duty airmen ... grow significantly under the mentoring of skilled Air National Guard maintenance experts."

DOD web site serves sexual assault victims, provides info

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Servicemembers who are victims of sexual assault or who need information on the Defense Department policy on preventing sexual assaults can find the information at a new Web site.

The site, launched by Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is basically a place to go to for information, said Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, the task force commander.

The site has links to all the services' Web sites related to the sexual assault issue. It spells out what people can do if they are victims of sexual assault, the general said.

The designers of the new site, which recently went live, had to name the site with the initials of the organization -- sapr.mil -- rather than something like "sexualassault.mil" because too many firewalls

would block out a request under that name, the general said.

The site is more than just a reporting site. If anyone has questions about the policy, the answers are available on the Web site. "Because it is a DOD site, one could access this one site and get the overarching information," General McClain said. "Since we link to the service Web sites, an individual could get that information, too."

If a commander or a first sergeant has questions, this site should provide the answers, but if not, they can send an e-mail via the site to a Joint Task Force member.

General McClain said the group already is thinking of improvements. "We will add other things as we get them done," she said. "We're readying a commander's checklist on sexual assault prevention, for example."



Take Note

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

....to Senior Master Sgt.
Sammy Gipson, MXG

....to Master Sgt.
Darryl Waters, CES

....to Tech. Sgt.
Arthur Caffey, 357 AS
David Collins, MXS
Ronald Hyde, ASTS
Timothy Lynam, LRS
Barbara Owens, 357 AS

....to Staff Sgt.
Clairmont Barnes, 908 AW

Dennis Brooks, ASTS
Keith Daniels, 25 APS
John Metcalf Jr., 357 AS

Brandi Nesmith, ASTS
Richard Peterson, SFS
Joe Reed, CF
Denise Wesley, MSS

....to Senior Airman
Todd Benge, MXS
Jason Danley, 25 APS
Lillian Garrett, 25 APS
Christopher Harris, 25 APS

Willie Johnson, SVF
Jessica Owens, CES
Anthony Riley, 25 APS
Stefano Semeraro, CES
Timothy Smith, MXS

....to Airman 1st Class
Michael Conner, ASTS
Takeldric Gordon, CES
Sandra Percival, LRS
Derry Thorpe II, LRS

....to Airman
Kristi Foster, LRS

August Retirements

Lt. Col. Harold Trammell, 357 AS

Maj. Steven Nine, MXG
Tech. Sgt. Terry Pink, CF

The meal will be buffet style and includes sliced roast beef, grilled chicken breast, crispy catfish, salad and various vegetables, desserts and tea or coffee.

"Last year's reunion was a lot of fun, and a big success. Many people attend who hadn't been back to this area for a long time," said Alumni Association member Harriet Mullins.

She added that anyone interested in playing golf should contact Harold Dobbs, (334)277-2077, c130p@aol.com.

Anyone with news about former members who've passed away since the last dinner is asked to let Alumni Association leaders know so they can acknowledge them at the dinner.

For more information, please contact Harriett Mullins, (334)365-4351; Harold Taylor (334) 365-5529 (E-mail: taylorsh3@aol.com); or Gene Beasley (334) 365-4721 (E-mail: gb306@bellsouth.net).

Reserve looking for applicants for full-time duty

WASHINGTON – The Air Force Reserve is looking for officers and enlisted people to fill full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions.

In the past 15 years, the number of AGR slots has increased from 400 to more than 1,900 authorizations.

"We have opportunities in many specialties but a larger concentration in career fields such security forces, combat rescue, intelligence, maintenance, space, pilot and personnel," said Maj. Dawn M. Suito, deputy director of the AGR Management Office in the Pentagon's Office of Air Force Reserve. "Currently, Air Force Reserve Command's



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hard-to-fill positions are in security forces, intelligence and combat rescue. We are actively seeking volunteers for these programs."

Reservists in the AGR program serve under the authority of Title 10 of the U.S. Code and receive most of the benefits afforded to the active force. They qualify for an active-duty retirement, provided they attain career status and can serve 20 years active federal military service.

The program offers tours of duty on the Air Staff; at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver; in AFRC units; and with other major commands.

Information about vacancies and application procedures, as well as more details on the program is available on the AGR Management Office's restricted Web site at www.re.hq.af.mil/agr/agrhome2.html.

Alumni hosts reunion dinner

All past and present unit members are invited to the 908AW Alumni Association Reunion Saturday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Maxwell-Gunter Annex's Falcon's Nest.



Ben and Sallie Morris are all smiles at last year's alumni dinner. This year's reunion takes place Saturday, Sept.

10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Falcon's Nest on Gunter Annex.

Photo by Maj. Jerry Lobb

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